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AUTHOR Ames, Lynda J.; Ellsworth, Jeanne
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ABSTRACT

By exploring the everyday experiences of women in a rural Head Start program, this study examines the processes of underprivileged women working to make a better life for themselves and their families. In all, researchers interviewed 42 parents, 7 of them fathers, 18 staff members, and 4 community representatives. To empower mothers, the Head Start program allows many to work as aides or on policy boards to learn how to have an impact on structures that impact their lives. Findings from these participants show that while Head Start programs can make women's lives more manageable and more rewarding, they do not change the structures of poverty. In addition, administrators, for economic reasons, are moving to take more control of local programs, decreasing the control of program mothers and reducing the empowerment potential of the program. (Contains 181 references.) (SLD)

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